

HISTORY TODAY



Isabel Clara Eugenia

CANDIDATE FOR THE THRONE OF FRANCE.

- On August 2, 1589, **King Henry III of France was murdered**. So Philip II made a series of political efforts, claiming the French crown to his daughter **Isabel Clara Eugenia**.

- The rights of Isabel Clara Eugenia to the throne of France, also claimed by the Huguenot Henry IV, came of **being mother grand-daughter of Henry II of France and niece of Henry III of France**, brother of Elizabeth of Valois.

- However, France was governed by the **Salic law**, and Isabel of Valois had **renoun-**

ced his rights to the throne on the occasion of her marriage with Philip II.

- The efforts of Philip II caused **the opposite effect**: unite **Catholics and French Huguenots** against a foreign sovereign, **facilitating accession to the throne** of Henry IV and **the end of the Wars of Religion** in France.

SOVEREIGN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

- In 1598 Felipe II gave as dowry to Isabel Clara Eugenia the **Spanish Netherlands** and the **duchy of Burgundy** in her upcoming marriage with her first cousin the **Archduke Albert of Austria**, grandson of **Charles I of Spain**, leaving both as sovereigns of that territories.

- Felipe II tried to solve the

Isabel Clara Eugenia, a candidate for the throne of France and sovereign of the Netherlands.

problem created by the insurrection of the Netherlands, which led to the **Eighty Years' War**, through the establishment of an indigenous branch of the Habsburgs.

- In 1621 **Albert of Austria died** and, having no children of the marriage, the Netherlands **returned to the Spanish crown**. Isabel Clara Eugenia held the office of governor and resided there for the rest of her life.

- **Philip IV of Spain**, Isabel Clara Eugenia nephew, **supported her on the government of the Netherlands** until she died in 1633.



Isabel as a Governor